

Abstract

An interactive remote control unit includes i) a receiver, ii) a display, iii) an entry section, iv) a transmitter, and v) a controller. The receiver receives a signal via a device to be controlled; the display shows information carried by the
5 signal; the entry section accepts a viewer's request with respect to the information on the display; the transmitter, according to the request at the entry section, transmits operation data for controlling the device; and the controller governs all of the components above. Such structured remote control unit can offer an electronic program guide service and other services, introducing them
10 not on the TV display but on the display of the unit on hand. In the case that the unit is employed for interactive communications with a camera, the unit allows a user to control the camera from a distance.